



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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KRUG COMMENDS LIFESAVERS ON BLACK DOUGLAS

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug wired his commendations today to the captain, crew and scientists of the US FWS Black Douglas which reached San Francisco at noon today with the 17 survivors of the Panamanian vessel Salina Cruz which burned Monday night about 100 miles off Portland, Oregon. The Fish and Wildlife Service vessel picked up the survivors from lifeboats, after being directed to the spot by Coast Guard planes.

Captain S. M. Joelson, San Francisco, of the US FWS Black Douglas received Krug's message - which also included in the general citation H. H. Eckles, Los Altos, California, biologist in charge of the trip, and First Mate H. Hovde, San Francisco.

Others were biologists J. R. Thraillkill and W. A. Rush, both of Antioch, California, Second Mate H. K. Conant, Long Beach, Chief Engineer J. R. Ryerson, San Francisco, Assistant Engineer W. A. Byers, San Francisco, Second Assistant Engineer S. Svendsen, Oakland, and Ship Cook M. J. Cunningham, Oakland.

Able Bodied Seamen S. Edwards, Berkeley, O. J. Fieldshaw, San Francisco, K. C. Jenkins, Oakland, and Ordinary Seamen J. R. Harb, Oakland, J. G. Ralston, Berkeley, E. W. Kelley, Berkeley, and Messman J. Donougher, San Francisco were included.

John C. Marr, chief, South Pacific Fishery Investigations, Stanford, California, reports that the Black Douglas was on its sixth cruise, which began October 3--returning today. This cruise was to determine the amount and extent of sardine spawning, survival rates of sardine larvae, productivity of the area, the current patterns of the region and other related characteristics of the marine climate off the West Coast.

The Black Douglas is one of four ships engaged in a coastwide program of ocean pilchard research. The other three are owned and operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the California Division of Fish and Game, agencies cooperating with the FWS.

The Black Douglas is a 132-foot ex-schooner with a cruising range of over 5,000 miles. It is berthed at Treasure Island, San Francisco. It is used by the

Fish and Wildlife Service to collect information concerning currents, biological, and chemical characteristics of the water. The vessel "occupies" 40 stations along four lines running offshore from the Oregon coast about 500 miles, between Cape Mendocino, California and the Columbia River.

As reported earlier this week, the blazing lumber ship Salina Cruz was abandoned Monday and the crew was picked up in two lifeboats by the Black Douglas. The 17 members of the Panamanian vessel's crew were uninjured, although suffering from exposure, and were to be landed at San Francisco about noon.

The after-dark rescue by the Black Douglas recalls an incident in its own history when the vessel was shelled by a Japanese submarine shortly after Pearl Harbor, and escaped only after blacking-out.

A copy of the telegram follows:

"To Captain S. M. Joelson: I wish to extend my personal commendations to you, your officers and crew, and the scientists assigned to the Black Douglas for your dramatic, after-dark rescue of the 17 survivors of the Salina Cruz. This work maintains the honor and traditions of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Signed Secretary of the Interior."

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